7th February 1924]

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—" Am I to understand that the answer to the supplementary question is to the effect that if the Corporation put forward proposals, the Government would be pleased to render some aid? I want the hon. the Finance Member to reply to my question, Sir."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" I would refer the hon. Gentleman to Devolution Rule No. 31."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—" Will the hon. Member kindly quote it?"

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR :—" Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government request the hon. the Finance Member for such a grant to the Corporation?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" The question will be considered, Sir."

Arrest of a French subject.

243 *Q.*—Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(1) the circumstances that led to the arrest in December last at the Villupuram Railway station of one Nagaratnam, a French subject, residing in Pondicherry, *en route* to Madras and the grounds on which his remand was applied for and granted;

(2) the duration of his remand and the accusation, if any, made against him;

(3) the result of investigation, if any, made since his remand;

(4) the reasons for dropping the proceedings against him and releasing him; and to lay on the table the papers touching him;

(5) whether it is a fact that the said Nagaratnam requested the magistrate to send him back to Pondicherry under escort and the magistrate declined to accede to the said request; and

(6) whether any attempt was made to ascertain from the French authorities his antecedents and character?

A.—(1) The individual was behaving in a suspicious manner and attempting to conceal himself when the police arrested him. Papers found on him showed that he was an associate of dangerous revolutionaries; when questioned by the police, he failed to give a satisfactory account of himself. He was therefore arrested under section 55, Criminal Procedure Code.

(2) He was in remand from 30th November 1923 to 13th December 1923. The accusation made against him is mentioned in clause (1) above.

(3) The Government have no information.

(4) He was released because the police could not submit the final report by the 13th December 1923. The papers cannot be placed on the table.

(5) The Government have no information.

(6) No.